



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

Atlantic White-Sided Dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus acutus*)

Description

Atlantic white-sided dolphins have a robust body with a short beak, and sharply defined coloration – dark gray dorsal surface with a narrow bright white patch just below the dorsal fin and a narrow tan patch that continues back almost to the fluke (tail). Their sides are light gray and their belly and throat are white.

Habitat and Distribution

Atlantic white-sided dolphins occur in the temperate North Atlantic from North Carolina north to the Davis Strait in the west and the Norwegian Sea in the east. They are found in both shelf waters and deep slope and canyon waters.

Sounds

Atlantic white-sided dolphins make many different vocalizations while socializing and playing. They also use echolocation clicks to locate prey while foraging.

Feeding

Atlantic white-sided dolphins feed on a wide variety of prey including herring, hake, squid, small mackerel, octopus and sand lance.

Threats

Atlantic white-sided dolphins are killed incidentally in gillnets and trawlers in U.S. and Canadian waters.

Fun Fact

They are highly social and playful animals that are seen traveling in groups ranging in size from a few individuals to several hundred!



Kalyn Quintin MacIntyre / NEFSC



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Family: Delphinidae
Population: > 63,000
Status: Least Concern
Length: 8 – 9 feet
Weight: 400 – 510 lbs